



New Castle Crier

The official newsletter of New Castle City

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New Castle, Delaware

September 2012

Work progresses on dike assessment and needed repairs

City, County and State officials and public and private professionals continue to review information on the condition of the dikes and work towards development of a process for rehabilitation of these critical structures. Related discussions will take place at the regular City Council meeting at 7 p.m. on September 11 at the Town Hall.

The General Assembly approved \$3 million in the 2011-12 State budget earmarked for dikes. An additional \$2.5 million was approved and included in the 2012-13 budget for dikes/dams.

The highest priority repair is the Red Lion dike, followed by the three dikes within the City: Buttonwood, Broad Marsh and

Gambacorta Marsh, and finally a fifth dike: Army Creek. Preliminary and final engineering designs are completed for the Red Lion dike. Permits are now being sought for Red Lion construction work.

Preliminary engineering has been completed for the three City dikes. Cost estimates are:

- Buttonwood: \$1.6 million;
- Broad Marsh: \$1.5 million;
- Gambacorta Marsh: \$1.6 million.

Elevations for all dikes need to be raised to varying degrees. The target uniform elevation is 8.5 feet along the entire length of all the dikes. This will allow the City to apply to the Army Corps of Engineers for these dikes to be included

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The next
regular
City Council
meeting is 7 p.m.,
Tues., Sept. 11 at
Town Hall

CITY OFFICES CLOSED

With No Trash Pickup
Monday, September 3

Revised Trash Pickup Schedule

Orig. Pickup

Mon., 9/3

Tues., 9/4

Rev. Pickup

Tues., 9/4

Wed., 9/5

September Events

Saturday, September 15 from 7 to 11 p.m.

On the Wharf at the foot of Delaware Street

☛ **New Castle's Wharf Dance** ☛

Sponsored by the New Castle Historical Society
and the New Castle Senior Center

Join us for a night of music, dance, food & friends!

Music by Lew The Mailman

Food will be sold and there will be a cash bar.

*Proceeds from the evening benefit the New Castle
Senior Center and the New Castle Historical Society.*

(You must be at least 21 years old to attend this event.)

Rain location is at the Senior Center at 400 South St.

Call Mike at 322-2794 or Kat at 325-2419

or email: nchistorical@aol.com.

\$20 per person

Saturday, September 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

In Battery Park

☛ **42nd Annual Art on the Green** ☛

Presented by the New Castle Hundred Lions Club

More than 200 Artists and Crafters

(Rain Date: September 29)

Call: 302-328-LIONS

Refreshments Available

Free Admission, Free Parking, Free Shuttle Buses

Saturday, September 22 from 3 to 6:30 p.m.

Christiana Masonic Lodge #35, 1406 Wilmington Rd.

☛ **All You Can Eat Dinner** ☛

Spaghetti, Meatballs and Beverages

\$8.50 per person: Eat-In or Take-Out (ends at 6)

Save the Date: Oct. 20 at the Penn Farm

Cultivating Sustainable Communities:

A Conversation with Fred Kirschenmann

New Castle – The First Capital City!

The most picturesque and historic waterfront community on the East Coast!

Police patrol vehicle cited for award-winning graphics design

The New Castle City Police Department was honored by *Law and Order* magazine, with the graphics on its 2012 Dodge Charger marked patrol vehicle being selected as the best design for a municipal police department with between 10 and 50 officers.

The narrative in the magazine entry said, "The New Castle City PD was challenged with redesigning the graphics on their marked patrol cars due to the new body style of the Dodge Charger. They believe they found the perfect balance between class and eye-catching with their new graphics. They chose high-resolution, reflective material to ensure the police vehicles would be highly visible at night as well as daytime. The design team consisted of Chief Kevin P. McDerby, patrol officers and Vaughn Fitch Graphics and Design of Newark, Delaware."

Judges' comments were, "The three-quarter side graphic pulled to the back of the vehicle looks sporty; gives it an edgy look."

Congratulations to Chief McDerby and his team who put together the winning design!

Code Enforcement Corner

Code Enforcement helps maintain and improve the quality of life of New Castle City residents by administering an unbiased enforcement program to correct violations of City zoning, property maintenance and building codes. This includes working with residents, neighborhoods, public service agencies and other City offices.

Complaint forms are available at the City offices or on the City Web site at: NewCastleCity.Delaware.gov. To reach the Code Enforcement Officer, call 323-6081.

Complaints are handled on a confidential basis. If feedback and/or updates are requested, however, a name, address and phone number need to be provided with the complaint.

This month's highlights and general reminders

- Please note proper times trash containers can be legally placed at curb.
- It is unlawful to park, store or permit to be parked or stored, other than fully enclosed in a building, any motor vehicle which is incapable of being moved under its own power (inoperable), or which does not have current registration plates attached to the vehicle.
- Please keep sidewalks, curbs and gutters free of weeds, grass and debris.
- Clean up after your dog.

Dike assessment; rehabilitation

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in the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP). Under the program, should damage and/or failure of a dike occur as a result of a flood or storm event, then the City may be eligible to receive up to 80% funding from the Army Corps to make repairs.

In addition to the minimum elevation requirement, once the dikes are rehabilitated, the City would have to ensure they are maintained to a certain standard to be continuously eligible for RIP funding. The City may perform some of the maintenance with City crews, however would also likely enlist the assistance of the County and State.

A number of common factors are required for the rehabilitation of the dikes, which includes:

- raising elevations: Buttonwood an average of 2.7 feet, Broad an average of 3.3 feet and Gambacorta an average of 1.7 feet;
- removing unwanted vegetation, which includes necessary and required removal of trees;
- removing animal burrows;
- fixing existing riprap which is overgrown with vegetation, undersized and show signs of scouring.

Further, on the Gambacorta dike, the River side shows signs of erosion and seepage has been occurring. Also, the Broad and Gambacorta dikes will need to be extended for proper tie-ins to occur on the dike ends — the costs for which are not included in the current preliminary estimates.

For more information on the City's dikes, go online: www.dnrec.delaware.gov/coastal/Pages/CityofNewCastle.aspx.

On a related item, engineering work has continued on design for a living shoreline project. This would create a natural looking area in the River in the vicinity of the Sailing Club in Battery Park. The main purpose is for erosion control and wave attenuation. At the same time, added habitat for native fish and wildlife would be created.

A number of options were explored for how this would be put together. The best design has been selected, however the cost estimate for construction — close to \$2 million — is much higher than what was expected.

So far, the work has been funded by a grant and funds remain so that the engineering design may be finalized. That will be concluded, even without a source of funds identified for project construction.

The good news is, should grant funding become available, for instance for a "shovel-ready" environmental enhancement project, the City will have the bulk of the required materials already prepared to submit a grant application.